



SANTA ROSA PLAIN

GROUNDWATER ANNUAL REPORT

A YEAR OF ACTION IMPLEMENTING THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) had a productive Water Year 2025, advancing a wide range of programs and projects under its Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The GSA's work this year reflects a broad and sustained commitment to protecting the region's groundwater resources for current and future users.

Filling in Data Gaps

A major focus of this year's effort was expanding the GSA's understanding of the basin through targeted scientific and monitoring work, including:

- Field studies of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and surface water connections throughout the basin
- Launch and expansion of Level Up!, a voluntary groundwater-level monitoring program
- Rollout of Flow Smart, a voluntary well flow-metering program to better track groundwater use
- Geophysical surveys to improve understanding of the basin's complex underground geology
- Planning, design, and construction of new dedicated monitoring wells
- Refinement of groundwater use estimates and an updated inventory of water wells in the basin

- Updates to the groundwater flow model to reflect new data and conditions

On-the-Ground Projects

Beyond monitoring and planning, the GSA advanced several active projects aimed at improving groundwater conditions:

- A policy and programs options study to evaluate future management tools
- Assessment of water-use efficiency opportunities and piloting of conservation programs like the Well Aware Toolkit
- Aquifer storage and recovery pilot studies to explore opportunities to bank water underground during wet years
- An on-farm recharge pilot project near Mark West Creek to test how agricultural lands can help replenish groundwater supplies
- Design of upland stormwater recharge practices at Crane Creek to capture and direct stormwater into the aquifer

Together, these efforts represent a significant investment in the science, infrastructure, and partnerships needed to ensure the Santa Rosa Plain's groundwater basin remains healthy and resilient. The California Dept. of Water Resources Implementation Grant has been instrumental in making this volume and pace of work possible.



The 2025 Annual Report of the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) provides a snapshot of groundwater conditions from the previous Water Year (October 1, 2024, through September 30, 2025). The Annual Report measures the basin's progress towards meeting the goals defined in the Santa Rosa Plain Groundwater Sustainability Plan, including the projects and programs the GSA and its partners are implementing.

**TO READ THE FULL SANTA ROSA PLAIN GSA ANNUAL REPORT
VISIT: [SANTAROSAPLAINGROUNDWATER.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS](https://santarosaplaingroundwater.org/annual-reports)**

Funding for the projects and programs in this report have been provided in full or in part from The Budget Acts of 2021 and 2022 and through an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources.

SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS

GROUNDWATER LEVEL CHANGE FALL 2024-FALL 2025

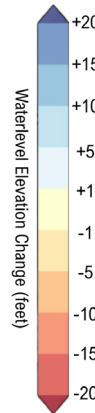
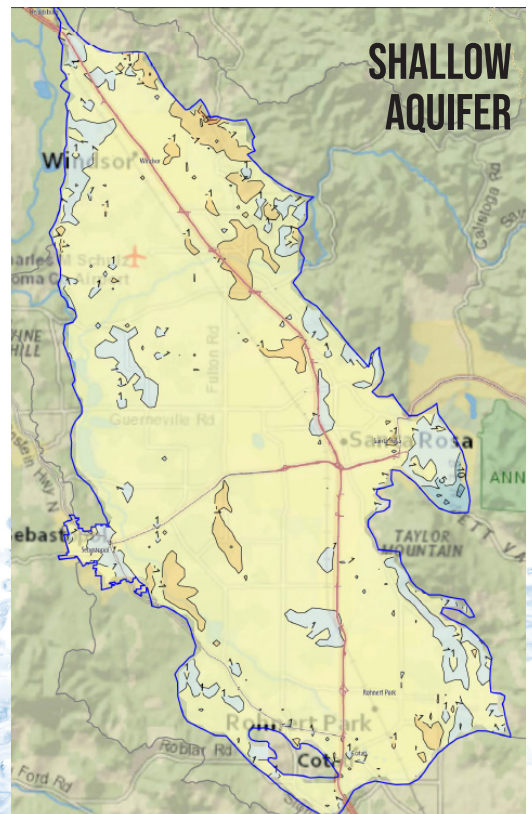
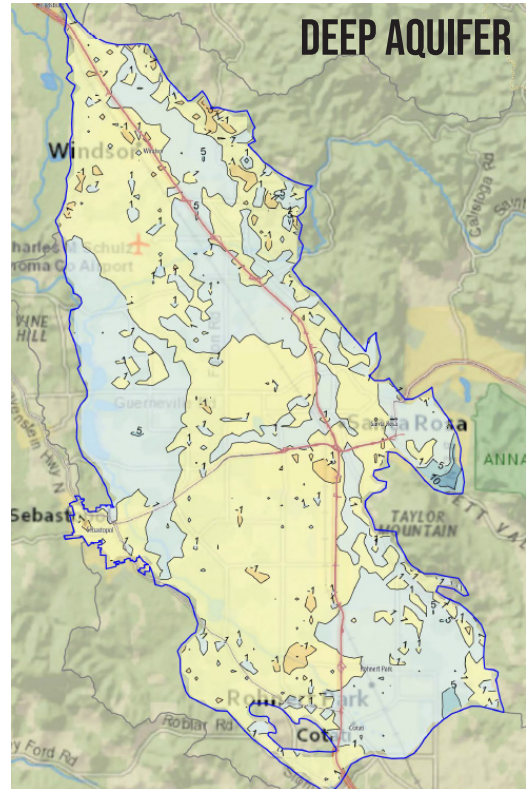


GROUNDWATER LEVELS

For Water Year 2025, groundwater levels were largely stable across most of the basin compared to the prior year, with modest increases and decreases of up to about 5 feet in some areas — particularly in the northern part of the basin. This pattern held true for both the shallow aquifer (water stored closer to the surface) and the deep aquifer (water stored in deeper underground layers).

A change of a few feet in either direction is considered relatively modest and is a normal part of year-to-year variation. Significant or widespread drops — especially over multiple years — would be a signal that the basin may be losing more water than it's gaining. In this case, the maps reflect the overall wet conditions of Water Year 2025 and suggest the basin remained in good balance.

The maps shown here are built from measurements collected at a network of 113 monitoring wells across the basin each fall. Scientists compare this fall's readings to last fall's readings at the same locations, then use those data points to draw a picture of change across the entire basin. Because wells can vary in depth and construction — and because underground geology in this area is complex, with abrupt shifts in soil and rock types and numerous fault zones — readings from nearby wells can sometimes differ significantly. As a result, these maps are best understood as a general overview of basin-wide trends rather than a precise snapshot of any one location. They are not intended for site-specific analysis.



GROUNDWATER STORAGE

For Water Year 2025, groundwater storage in the Santa Rosa Plain remained in good standing. Storage levels did not exceed any of the minimum thresholds established in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and conditions that would qualify as an “undesirable result” — a formal trigger for concern under state groundwater law — were not occurring.

In support of ongoing monitoring and planning, the GSA completed an update to the groundwater flow model for the basin in Water Year 2025. This model is a key tool for estimating how much water is stored underground and how it moves through the basin — helping water managers make better-informed decisions now and into the future.

In the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, the minimum threshold for groundwater in storage is evaluated using groundwater levels as a proxy. Therefore, similar to the chronic lowering of groundwater levels, there is no cause for concern in groundwater storage.



Join the Level Up! voluntary monitoring program to measure groundwater levels in the fall and spring. Well owners and residents can track well levels and the GSA benefits by receiving important data about water levels in your area of the subbasin.

■ VISIT: SANTAROSAPLAINGROUNDWATER.ORG/VOLUNTARY-MONITORING



LAND SUBSIDENCE

Excessive groundwater pumping has the potential to shift the land surface, which can damage roads, bridges, and other infrastructure. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan found that there is no evidence of subsidence in the subbasin, and Water Year 2025 monitoring also found no evidence of subsidence.



GROUNDWATER QUALITY

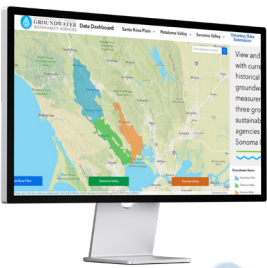
The GSA monitors the basin for arsenic, nitrates and total dissolved solids to determine if GSA projects or groundwater pumping is degrading water quality. In Water Year 2025, the concentration levels for these substances didn't exceed the thresholds for groundwater quality in the subbasin.



DEPLETION FROM CREEKS, STREAMS AND OTHER SURFACE WATER

In 2025, the GSA continued a collaboration with scientists to address data gaps related to the depletion of interconnected surface water. Interconnected surface water is characterized by streams and creeks and other surface water bodies that are hydrologically connected and interacting with the shallow aquifer. The biological health of plants and animals in those places is dependent on this flow of water.

With six shallow representative monitoring points near streams as proxies, the data showed that in Water Year 2025, surface water depletion was within the sustainability range.



EXPLORE MORE WITH THE SONOMA COUNTY GROUNDWATER DATA DASHBOARD



The Sonoma County Groundwater Data Dashboard makes it easy for well owners, residents, and anyone curious about local water to explore what's happening underground. Whether you want to understand trends, see groundwater conditions in your area, view hydrographs for individual wells, explore surface water-groundwater Interaction or understand wet and dry year impacts, the Dashboard puts reliable information at your fingertips. Watch a short orientation, explore FAQs, and dive into the data that supports a sustainable water future for Sonoma County.

■ **VISIT: SANTAROSAPLAINGROUNDWATER.ORG/DA-TA-DASHBOARD**

CLIMATE CONDITIONS IN THE SUBBASIN IN WATER YEAR 2025

Coming out of a dry stretch

This was the third year in a row of above-average rainfall, a welcome turnaround after several dry years that included 2021, one of the driest years in the past 127 years of local records. Rainfall measured near the Santa Rosa Airport totaled 42.7 inches in Water Year 2025, well above the long-term average of about 33 inches. That's roughly 30% more rain than a typical year.

More rain meant more streamflow

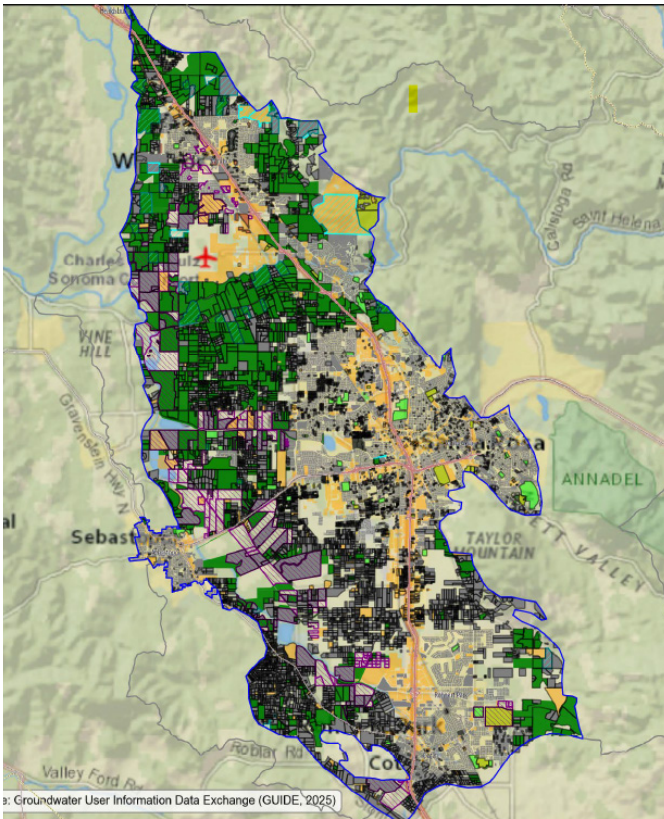
Creeks and streams throughout the basin ran higher than usual this year, which is consistent with the above-average precipitation.

What does this mean for groundwater?

Water managers use a rolling three-year average of rainfall to track how precipitation translates into groundwater recharge, since it takes time for water to soak through the soil and reach underground aquifers. By that measure, Water Year 2025 is classified as a wet year — and importantly, it does not meet the threshold for drought conditions under the basin's Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

In short, Water Year 2025 was a positive year for the water supply outlook in the Santa Rosa Plain, continuing a trend of recovery after a difficult dry period.

GROUNDWATER USE AND SOURCES WY 2025



GROUNDWATER USE TYPES AND SOURCES

- Agriculture
- Rural Residential
- Commercial
- Turf
- Urban/Municipal
- Recycled Water
- Surface Water
- Parcels with Groundwater Use

The full Santa Rosa Plain GSA Annual Report for Water Year 2025, with detailed information, data, graphs, maps and more can be found on our website:

VISIT: SANTAROSAPLAINGROUNDWATER.ORG/ANNUAL-REPORTS

TOTAL WATER-USE IN SUBBASIN FROM ALL SOURCES (ACRE-FEET) COMPARED OVER THREE WATER YEARS (WY)

Total water use within the basin is based on the estimated and metered uses of groundwater, surface water and recycled water. The majority of water use is estimated using our best available information. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan outlines strategies to fill this data gap.

WATER-USE SECTOR Color corresponds to areas shaded on map	Total water use from groundwater extraction			Total water use from all sources (groundwater, imported and local surface water, recycled water) as reported in our GSA Annual Reports		
	WY 2023	WY 2024	WY 2025	WY 2023	WY 2024	WY 2025
Agriculture	5,119 (29%)	4,951 (28%)	5,004 (27%)	9,738 (22%)	9,967 (21%)	9,674 (21%)
Rural Residential	3,976 (22%)	3,964 (22%)	3,971 (22%)	3,976 (9%)	3,964 (9%)	3,971 (9%)
Non-municipal public water system: industrial and commercial	2,370 (13%)	2,832 (16%)	2,834 (16%)	2,075 (5%)	2,923 (6%)	2,834 (6%)
Turf-golf courses and schools	2,092 (12%)	2,024 (11%)	2,016 (11%)	2,547 (6%)	2,534 (5%)	2,422 (5%)
Urban: municipal public water systems and urban private wells	4,342 (24%)	4,035 (23%)	4,333 (24%)	25,313 (58%)	27,206 (58%)	26,801 (59%)
Total	18,073	17,806	18,158	43,649	46,594	45,702

The total groundwater extraction for the subbasin over the last three years has been below, and has not exceeded, the estimated sustainable yield of 23,900 acre-feet.

TOTAL SUBBASIN WATER-USE BY SOURCE (ACRE-FEET) COMPARED OVER SIX WATER YEARS

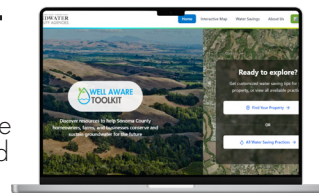
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Groundwater Extraction	19,768 (39%)	19,791 (43%)	19,145 (42%)	18,073 (41%)	17,898 (38%)	18,158 (40%)
Surface Water	25,312 (50%)	22,378 (49%)	21,022 (46%)	21,084 (48%)	23,643 (51%)	22,909 (50%)
Recycled Water	5,755 (11%)	3,738 (8%)	5,945 (13%)	4,858 (11%)	5,054 (11%)	4,634 (10%)
TOTAL	50,835	45,907	46,112	44,015	46,594	45,701

GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY IS A COMMUNITY-WIDE EFFORT

In Water Year 2025, the GSA continued its active commitment to community engagement by holding regular public meetings of the GSA Board, Advisory Committee, community meetings and workshops, and maintaining the online GUIDE (Groundwater User Information and Data Exchange) portal where groundwater users can access water use information specific to their property. The GSA also conducted extensive direct outreach to local growers and rural well owners to encourage participation in voluntary monitoring and metering programs, water-use efficiency initiatives, and groundwater recharge efforts.

RESOURCES FOR GROUNDWATER USERS: THE WELL AWARE TOOLKIT

Sonoma County GSAs are working together to connect well users with practical tools and resources to help with groundwater management and sustainability and have developed the Well Aware Program, including the Well Aware Toolkit, a new, interactive resource designed to help groundwater users make smart, well-informed decisions about groundwater use on their property. The Well Aware Toolkit offers personalized groundwater savings practices based on a parcel's land use. This interactive tool allows people to explore water saving practices, funding opportunities, or determine experts that can assist.



VISIT: WELLAWARETOOLKIT.ORG